

the Court eating its words, or that fear of chastisement will bring the Parliamentarians on their knees. We shall see whether violence and despotism will prevail. I do not think there is steadiness, spirit, or union requisite for a revolution to be found in the French nation.¹ All will depend on the perseverance of the ministry and the temper of the army.

6th. MM. d'Espremenil and Goillard were ordered to be arrested by *lettres de cachet* the first for urging the Parliament to make the *arrete* and laying before it copies of the Garde des Sceaux's plans (which he had procured by stealth from the King's press at Versailles) the other for denouncing the amplification of the *vingtieme**

Both made their escape and came to the Parliament House, which was soon afterwards invested by three thousand five hundred Swiss and French guards, who locked the gates and kept all within

1 The bloody tragedy that shortly ensued proved the fallacy of this judgment—if, indeed, the noble epithets of steadiness, spirit and union can be applied to the execrable display of implacable madness and sanguinary combination that perverted the vast majority of the French people, until Napoleon

rose and once more enchained them.

2 The *vingtisme* was a tax first imposed in the year 1741, and was somewhat similar to an income-tax in its operations.

It was afterwards applied in a more direct manner to inheritances, bequests, &c., &c.